

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

The Examiner has rejected all of the pending claims. Claims 5 and 25 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Various claims are amended herein.

In view of the above, claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19, 20, 22 – 24, and 26 – 29 remain pending and under consideration. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed below.

No new matter has been added. Approval and entry is respectfully requested. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

II. CLAIMS 1, 17, 20, 23, 25, AND 29 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER NISHIMOTO (PUB. NO. US 2002/0155857) IN VIEW OF HOTTA ET AL. (PATENT ABSTRACT OF JAPAN PUBLICATION NUMBER 05181603).

Each of the independent claims is amended herein to further clarify the features of the claim. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, on page 20, lines 6-35. For example, amended claim 1 specifically recites, amongst other novel features, "control unit determines a direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen according to said operation mode, defines the direction in advance in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen, as a current direction in which said pointing device can be operated and has a moving amount adjusting means for moving said operational object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in the menu representation on the display screen in **accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period.**" Nishimoto and Hotta et al. (Hotta), either singularly or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest these features.

Instead Legall merely discloses "the information display section displays information and a pointer used for selecting the information. The sensor section reads an optical image of a finger and detects movements of the finger. Based upon the movement of the finger detected by the sensor section, the control section shifts the pointer." Similarly, paragraphs 52 and 53, cited by the Examiner, simply discloses "based upon the shifting direction and the shift distance of the finger thus found, CPU 10 shifts the pointer displayed on the LCD 3 through LCD interface 16." Neither of these cited passages disclose "moving said operational object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational

object in a predetermined manner in the menu representation on the display screen **in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period,**” as recited in, for example, amended claim 1.

The Examiner concedes, “Nishimoto does not specifically disclose a device wherein the control unit defines the direction **in advance** in which said pointing device can be operated.” (see page 5 of the Office Action). Therefore, the Examiner relies on Hotta to teach these features. (see Abstract).”

It is respectfully submitted, however, that nothing was cited or has been found in Hotta suggesting modification of Nishimoto to overcome the deficiencies discussed above. Instead, Hotta simply describes a mouse that has a horizontal encoder and a vertical encoder. (see abstract). Hotta is silent with respect to the features of “moving said operational object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in the menu representation on the display screen **in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period,**” which are specifically recited by Applicant in, for example, amended claim 1.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences in the various other claims over the cited references.

III. CLAIMS 5, 9, 10, 19, 22, 24, AND 26-28 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER NISHIMOTO AND HOTTA IN VIEW OF KIM (U.S. PAT. NO. 6765598)

Claims 5 and 25 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Each of the dependent claims is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Furthermore, the Examiner concedes Nishimoto in view of Hotta does not specifically disclose a pointing device and a telephone wherein said control unit has moving amount adjusting means for moving said operational object by a predetermined step value when said pointing device is operated. (see item 4, page 8 of the Office Action). Therefore, the Examiner relies on Kim to teach the speed of movement of the movable pointer can be adjusted. (citing col. 1, line 67 to col. 2, line 9 and claim 6 of Kim).

While Kim teaches the speed of a movable pointer can be adjusted, Kim does not cure the deficiencies of Nishimoto and Hotta discussed above. Specifically, Kim fails to teach “moving said operational object by a predetermined step value wherein the control unit outputs

a signal to move the operational object in a predetermined manner in the menu representation on the display screen **in accordance with a continuous signal from said pointing device for a predetermined time period,**" as recited in, for example, amended claim 1.

Therefore, it would not have been obvious to combine Nishimoto and Hotta's pointing device with the pointing device taught by Kim because neither Kim, Nishimoto, nor Hotta alone or in combination, discloses all the features of claim 1. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences in the various other claims (claims 9, 10, 19, 22, 24, and 26-28) over the cited references.

IV. CONCLUSION

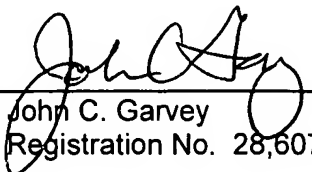
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 10-26-06

By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501